

Here's Help

Dear Friend,

There is a time when all of us need help. Sometimes the need is greater than at other times.

You may have lost your job, your home, your loved ones. The greater the need the greater the urgency that we come to the one who can help. He made the heavens, the earth and the mountains. He holds the stars in His hands and calls them by name. For that reason the Psalmist said in Psalm 121:1, 2, "I lift up my eyes to the mountains, where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth."

He is the one who parted the Red Sea, closed the mouths of lions, healed the sick, and raised the dead. When the enemies of the homeless attack, as I try to do God's work of sheltering those in need, I must never forget the many examples in scripture of how He ambushes enemy armies. When I feel my troubles twisting my stomach into knots, I have to let the peace of God that passes all understanding overwhelm me. He is the one who calms the raging seas.

It is Jesus who walked on the water, turned water into wine, healed the lame and opened the eyes of the blind. He promised that He would never leave us nor forsake us. Jesus, who caused the demons to tremble and raised the dead to life, now promises that He is with us always even to the end of the world.

Jesus tells us, "Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you; He will neither fail you nor abandon you" (Deut. 31:8).

People may leave you or me. They may abandon us when we need them most, but Jesus never will. In Romans 8:37-39 we are told, "in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

There is no reason for us to be afraid. God is with us. He is personally going before us and He has no plans to fail or abandon us. Nothing nor no one can separate us from the love of God which He has demonstrated through Jesus Christ.

Right now Jesus is saying, "Here is the help you need. Just trust me with all those worries and cares that are too heavy for you to carry. I want you to give them to me, every single one of them." First Peter 5:7 says, "Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about you."

Jesus is always right on time. He knows you need help. So He says, "Just trust me haven't I told you that a small amount of faith, the size of a mustard seed, will move that mountain of need standing before you? Just release your faith now and believe that I will meet your need."

Romans 5:6-8 tells us that, "When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed His love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."

Now I want to encourage you to take your attention off those problems that are haunting you and seek God with your whole heart. As you do that you will see Him miraculously intervene in such a powerful way that you will know that God is bigger than every problem.

He promises, "If you look for me wholeheartedly you will find me" (Jer. 29:18). God doesn't play hide-and-seek with us. He is right there saying, "Here's help".

As you go on a prayer walk in the great outdoors look up into the sky. There you will see the clouds that Psalm 104 says God rides on and the light He wraps around himself. Look around you and witness how He daily provides for the birds, flowers, rabbits and the rest of creation. Let the wonders of His creation assure you that He will provide for you.

As you search the scriptures you will find the promises of God along with miracle after miracle where God performed the impossible. As you seek God and read the scriptures your faith will grow.

Continue to seek God as you recall all the help God has provided for you in the past. Then be assured that He will continue to help you at this time of great need in your life.

Whatever you do don't give up praying. Over and over in the scripture we are told to bring every need to God in prayer. In Matt. 7:7, 8 Jesus says, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, the one who seeks finds, and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."

Perhaps at this moment you may feel like saying, “Lord I’m exhausted. This is too much for me. I can’t take it anymore. When I am this weary, Jesus, my mind starts playing tricks on me. I forget you are an everlasting God who doesn’t grow tired or weary. You are the all-powerful One who gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak” (Is. 40:29).

“I know with your help Almighty God that I can do all things through Christ Jesus, who strengthens me. For you have told me, ‘do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my right hand’” (Is. 41:10).

Because He is with us we have no reason to fear. He is our God who at this time is saying, “Here’s help. Just receive it. Receive Me for I want to be your very present help in times of trouble.” After all, “I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, ‘Do not fear, I will help you’” (Is. 41:13).

Now as the storms of life threaten you and you have troubles of many kinds, let Jesus take you in His arms. Lay your head on His chest listening to His heart beat, knowing that every beat is a communication of how much He loves you.

Remember “God is not a man, so He does not lie. He is not human, so He does not change His mind. Has He ever spoken and failed to act? Has He ever promised and not carried it through?” (Numbers 23:19).

God has a plan and purpose for you life. He has revealed it in many ways. The plans God has for your future are good plans. He says in Jeremiah 29:11, “I know the plans I have for you. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Even if you are in the midst of circumstances that seem to derail those plans continue to trust the Word of God. Don’t let discouragement swallow you up. God has good plans for you. They may be different than the plans you have but His are far better. They are plans that will give you a future filled with hope. Now receive the help that Christ has for you at this time. He wants to perform the impossible through you. What God has instore for you is way outside your wildest dreams. The only thing that will restrain you from receiving Gods miracles for your life is your fears, your worries, your limited thinking and unbelief.

Listen to what He is telling you right now in Isaiah 40:30, 31. “Even youths will become weak and tired, and young men will fall in exhaustion. But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.”

Aren't you tired of flapping your wings? The harder you flap, the more tired you become. It seems like you are getting nowhere. When will you start receiving the help Jesus has for you? Position yourself with Him. When you do that you will glide above the troubles that are wearing you down. You will soar to new heights. As you trust in God you will find new strength and not grow weary and exhausted.

Listen and obey as Jesus says, “Come to me, all of you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest” (Matt. 11:28).

Don't you love the sound of Jesus invitation as he says, “Here's help, here's rest for your body, mind and spirit. Just come to me and let me help you.”

To refuse His invitation is to go on struggling alone in a world filled with bad news, heartache, pain, sorrow, trouble and despair. As you live that way with each passing day you will get sucked further and further into feelings of hopelessness and depression.

When you start trusting in Jesus and receiving His help you will be filled with supernatural joy, peace and hope. It will begin to spill out of you until other people notice. Then you can tell them that this hope isn't anything about what you have done. It's about what Jesus has done for you. It is the power of His presence at work in your life.

It is time to turn on the spigot of hope that never runs dry. “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:13).

As you surrender your life, your troubles and worries to Jesus you will begin to discover that life can be awfully simple rather than simply awful. Then your heart will begin to leap for joy because the Lord will be your strength and shield. You will have peace of mind knowing He is your helper. As Psalm 28:7 says, “The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and He helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise Him.”

Praise the Lord. Every day with Him is a new day. What an adventure life can become, as you trust in Jesus and receive His help. When you do this you will see the miraculous unfold. When Jesus directs your life each day will bring you new and exciting moments that will result in inexpressible joy.

In the midst of the trials and tribulations instead of panicking you will pray and obey when God says, "Call upon Me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things, fenced in and hidden, which you do not know (do not distinguish and recognize, have knowledge of and understand)" (Jeremiah 33:3).

Although He will show me many things there still will be those times I do not understand. That is why I must accept the wisdom shared in verses like Proverbs 3:5,6. There it says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take."

As we seek the Lord God Almighty in all we do, trusting Him with all our heart, we will see that Christianity is not just a feel good religion. God never intended for His people to just be a bunch of happy go lucky people marching to heaven. He has called us forth to be a part of His revolution of love in this culture of hate.

As revolutionaries who open shelters for the homeless, seeing that everyone has a place to sleep and food to eat, we will make enemies. Jesus said if we were going to truly be His uncompromising followers in this bigoted culture of death we will have enemies.

When I see the enemies of the homeless and hurting ranting and raving that the homeless won't be sheltered in their neighborhood, I just marvel at God's powerful right hand. I know that ultimately it will smash and overthrow those who come up against God's work as mandated in Matt. 25:31-46 and other places in scripture.

After the oppressive Egyptians were completely defeated Moses made this universal declaration. "Your right hand O Lord, is glorious in power. Your right hand O Lord smashes the enemy. In the greatness of your majesty you overthrow those who rise against you. You unleash your blazing fury, it consumes them like straw" (Ex. 15:6, 7).

God has not called us to hover in fear but to arise and overthrow the oppressors of His people who are enslaved to the streets because of the greed of condo owners, developers and politicians.

God is standing by to help as He declares, "Who will rise up for me against the wicked? Who will take a stand for me against evil doers?" (Psalm 94:16).

You always want God's help, now why won't you help those He has called every believer to help? This includes the poor, fatherless, widowed, sick, incarcerated and homeless. What excuses will you make on the last day concerning the locked doors of your church to those who needed shelter or the locked doors of your heart of compassion?

“Because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in trespasses. It is by grace you have been saved... for it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is a gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Eph. 2:4,5,8-10).

Jesus helped us. He saved us. Now He is calling us as a redeemed people to help others who are in need. Let us move forth at this time as a people who have been helped, and are willing to help others through the grace and power of our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Yours in His Service,


Larry Rice